

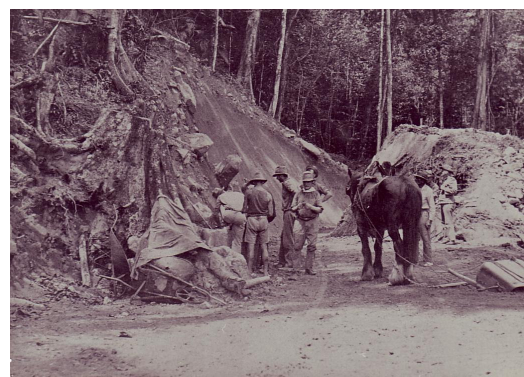
HERITAGE SERVICES INFORMATION SHEET NUMBER 21

THE PALUMA ROAD

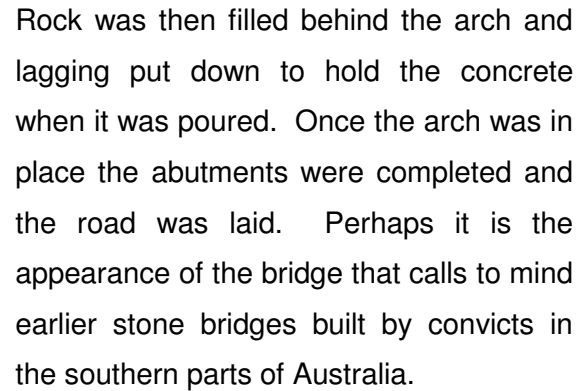
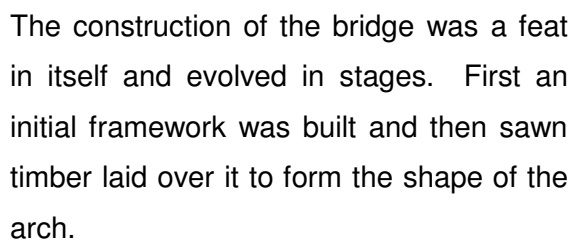


It is sometimes assumed that the stone bridge on the Paluma Road was constructed by convicts. This was not the case and while the work was certainly arduous and the conditions were harsh and isolated, the road and the bridge were actually built during the 1930s depression by relief workers.

Prior to the Main Roads Department's construction of the road the only access to the mountain was on foot or horseback which often took days through the steep and thickly vegetated terrain. This was the landscape that relief workers faced. With few mechanical aids, workers cleared the rainforest with picks and shovels. Explosives were used to blast areas of rock and horse drawn scoops, wheelbarrows or mining trolleys on small pieces of portable track removed the rock.



Even living conditions were difficult as the workers and their families lived in temporary camps at various points along the road.



Begun in 1930 the gravelled road was officially opened on 18 July 1937.

Acknowledgements:

- Linda Venn, *Paluma: the First Eighty Years 1870s-1950s*, Thuringowa City Council, Thuringowa Central, 2002.

